

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct the informality noted by the Examiner on page 2, paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

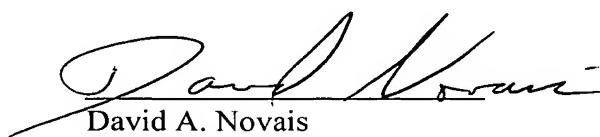
Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment. Claims 1 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) by Freund et al. '850. Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freund et al. '850.

Claims 2-4 and 9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 2-4 and 9.

With reference to the rejection of claims 1 and 6-8 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Freund et al. '850; and the rejection of claim 5 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable with Freund et al. '850, in order to expedite the allowance of the present application, the present amendment amends the claims based on the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. More specifically, in view of the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 2-4 and 9, the present amendment amends claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2; amends claim 4 to include the limitations of claim 1; and amends claim 8 to includes the limitations of claim 9.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is submitted that the inventions defined by each of claims 1 and 3-8 are patentable, and a favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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